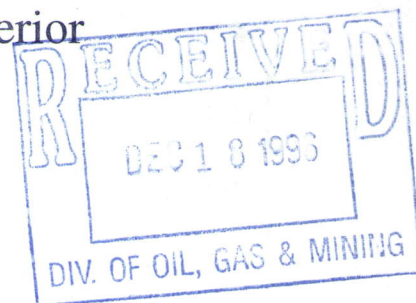


United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Moab District
Price River/San Rafael Resource Area
125 South 600 West
P.O. Box 7004
Price, Utah 84501



3809
(UTU-73779)
(UT-066)

Tony Gallegos
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

DEC 16 1996

We request that your office calculate the reclamation bond amount for Western Clay Company's proposed mine expansion on the Hebe mining claim group. They propose to expand their operation such that they will disturb 81.5 acres by the year 2008.

Currently we are initiating Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the occurrence of the Wright's fishhook cactus on the proposed expansion area.

Sincerely,

Penelope J. Dunn
Acting Area Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Moab District

Price River/San Rafael Resource Area
125 South 600 West
P.O. Box 7004
Price, Utah 84501

3809
(UTU-73779)
(UT-066)

Fred D. Mortensen
Western Clay Company
P.O. Box 127
Aurora, Utah 84620

DEC 16 1996

Dear Mr. Mortensen:

We have received and reviewed your plan of operations as amended, and have determined that it is complete as of December 11, 1996. We will require an additional 60 days in order to hold a public comment period for the environmental analysis of the proposed expansion. However, we cannot complete the environmental analysis of the project until a Section 7 consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been done and a response has been received from them. Any questions regarding the status after we send U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service the biological assessment for Section 7 consultation should be made to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at least until they have made an official response.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Neil Simmons of my staff at (801) 636-3639.

Sincerely,

PENELOPE J. DUNN

Area Manager
Acting

cc: Bryant Anderson
Emery County Planning and Zoning
P.O. Box 297
Castle Dale, Utah 84513
Kiran Bhayani
Utah Department of Environmental Health
Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870
Tony Gallegos
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 210
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